

# Preschool Phonics Phase 1.5 Alliteration

## A Guide for Parents

Preschool and nursery phonics focuses on pre-reading skills. These are speaking and listening skills, being able to distinguish the sounds they hear, patterns of speech, and sounds of speech. Phase 1 of the phonics programme is split into seven aspects; each builds on the previous aspect.

This guide introduces the fifth aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Alliteration.

Before your child can learn individual letter sounds, they will learn to hear letter sounds in speech. They learn to tune into words that may start with the same sounds but end with different sounds. These 'initial sounds' are more difficult to tune into, compared to rhyming words, but when children get the hang of it, there is lots of fun to be had finding real words and making up nonsense words.

Some sounds we say are made up of two letters, e.g. the 'sh' sound in 'shoe'. Use the 'sh' sound rather than 's' and 'h' when playing with your child. This is the same for the 'ch' and 'th' sounds too. Later, in Phase 2 phonics, your child will learn these as 'digraphs'.

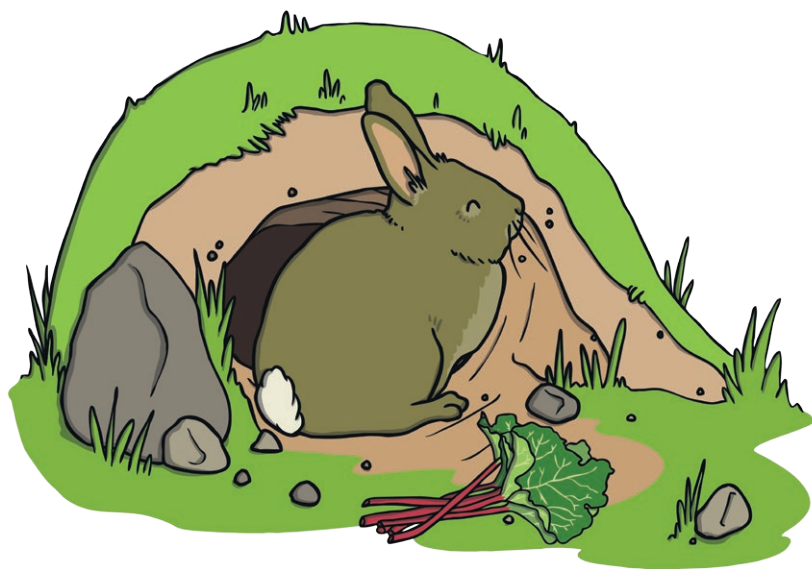
At nurseries, preschools and childminders, the children will usually play small group games with an adult, focusing on certain initial sounds. Some settings may have a sound of the week, while others may follow sounds related to specific interests of the children.

When you start thinking about initial sounds in words with your child, try to think of how the letter sounds when you say it in the word. For example, the word 'pea' has a very short 'p' sound not a 'p-uh' sound.

In everyday life, repeat the initial sound in the names of objects your child has been asked to find. E.g. "Can you find your g-g-g-gloves?" Encourage your child to say the sounds back to you.

Play 'I spy' with letter sounds (rather than letter names).

This aspect brings an introduction to letters and the alphabet, using only listening skills. When your child has mastered hearing the individual phonic sounds, you will be able to introduce Phase 2 phonics and the written letters.



The most important thing you can do is make time to listen to your child. Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones and really listen to them!